

I am frustrated by several holes in the telemarketing regulations. I have telemarketers call, and then hang up as soon as I ask for identifying information. Getting the information from the phone company to track down the offender can become very expensive in both time and money. I think it ought to be made easier to obtain such information from the phone company. And the telemarketers should be required to post a bond, so that when they get sued for violating the law, there is something to recover our expenses from. It ought to be a criminal violation to engage in the telemarketing business without posting the required bond. Secondly, while I understand charities wanting my donations, I am annoyed that they are exempted and can interrupt my dinner. I tell them flat out that I refuse to donate to them AT ALL because they telemarketed me. However, I do not believe the telemarketers they hire to do the calling relay these comments to the charities. Many of my acquaintances have indicated they feel the same, and the charities would be more successful by returning to traditional methods of contact.

Third, I am concerned about the "existing business relationship" exception. Most corporations are so entwined these days, and finance companies are the worst, that they often claim to have a relationship with you, which entitles them to call, merely because they own some part of some company somewhere. However, they never reveal or abide by those same principles of connected business when you notify them of a "do not call" request. In other words, they want it to apply in their favor to allow a call, but want to avoid applying it in reverse when you specifically ask them NOT to call you.

Fourth, there should be NO "existing business relationship" exception for faxes. It does not appear in the statute, but the FCC interprets one to exist in its rules. Given the particularly offensive nature of fax ads (they use up MY toner and paper and machine), the FCC should reverse its position regarding the exception and declare that it does not exist for faxes, period.

Fifth, in the same manner, many companies in the field think that the fact that they are engaged in the same business as me entitles them to send me faxes, using the words in paragraph 37 of the FCC's previous order to say that I have given them permission to fax me because I have published my fax number in an industry-related directory. I think the FCC needs to clear up this issue one way or the other, preferably a clear statement in accord with the statute that EXPRESS permission is required.

Thank you for your time and attention